US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5
474018

12th STREET LANDFILL REMEDIATION ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Weyerhaeuser Company

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BACKGROUND

During the time period between 1955 and 1981, the 12th Street Landfill, which is currently owned by Plainwell Inc., was used for the disposal of paper residuals from the Plainwell Mill. During a portion of this period (approximately1961 to 1970), Weyerhaeuser owned and operated the Plainwell Mill and also disposed paper residuals at the landfill. Even though these historic disposal practices were in compliance with laws and regulations in place at the time, current law requires Weyerhaeuser to address and manage current site conditions.

The Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in August 1990 after studies showed that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were present in the river sediments. The Landfill is part of the Kalamazoo River Superfund Site because PCBs were identified as being present in some of the paper residuals that were disposed at the Landfill (PCBs were also used or disposed at the other mills/landfills that are part of the overall Kalamazoo River Superfund Site). PCBs were used in the production of carbonless copy paper and are believed to have entered the stream of wastepaper that was recycled at paper mills along the Kalamazoo River during that era.

REMEDIATION PROJECT

On February 25, 2005, Weyerhaeuser, as the remaining historical property owner, entered into a consent decree with the U.S. EPA to perform investigation and remediation activities at the 12th Street Landfill, under the authority of the Federal Superfund program. Per the consent decree, Weyerhaeuser will excavate all identifiable paper residuals outside the landfill and move those materials into the landfill. In addition, the company will construct a containment and erosion protection system. Upon completion of the remediation activities, a cap will be placed on the landfill. All work will be reviewed and approved by the U.S. EPA.

In February 2007, U.S. EPA announced that a Time Critical Removal Action would be conducted at the former Plainwell Impoundment just upstream of the 12th Street Landfill. Part of this action will re-route the Kalamazoo River along the 12th Street Landfill site. To minimize possible releases of fill material to the river, Weyerhaeuser worked with U.S. EPA and state of Michigan representatives to construct part of the remediation early and increase the erosion control system along the planned new river channel to minimize possible releases. This work will be completed by the end of 2007.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental stewardship is among Weyerhaeuser's highest priorities. In all of our operations we implement excellent housekeeping and best management practices around all aspects of environmental protection. Highlighting and confirming this commitment to environmental stewardship, Weyerhaeuser was again recently named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index that tracks companies in terms of their economic, environmental and social performance. Weyerhaeuser is the only North American forest products company in the industry category of basic materials to be named.

ABOUT WEYERHAEUSER

Weyerhaeuser Company, one of the world's largest forest products companies, was incorporated in 1900. Weyerhaeuser is principally engaged in the growing and harvesting of timber; the manufacture, distribution and sale of forest products; and real estate construction, development and related activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: www.weyerhaeuser.com and www.wy.com/maps/displayt1.asp